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OBSERVATIONS
ON THE
INEFFICACIOUS USE OF IRONS,
IN CASES OF

Luxations, and Distortions of the Ankle Joint, and
Children born with deformed or crooked Feet :

A much more agreeable and effectual Mode of Treatment
being pursued.

ILLUSTRATED WITH CASES.

ADDRESSED TO THE PUBLIC.

BY WILLIAM JACKSON,

MEMBER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD; OF THE
CORPORATION OF SURGEONS OF LONDON, LATE
SURGEON IN THE ARMY, AND NOW A PRACTITION-
ER AT ISLINGTON.

THE SECOND EDITION.

Experientia præstantior arte.

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INTRODUCTION.

TO relieve the miseries to which mankind are liable by diseases and infirmities, is an act that must afford infinite pleasure, and satisfaction, to every feeling mind. And to endeavour to effect such desirable purposes by means that are most likely to be conducive to the ease and welfare of the afflicted, is, what every patient is undoubtedly entitled to expect, and the duty of every practitioner to consider.

I am aware, that, by this publication, I am laying myself open to the criticisms of the makers and venders of those instruments

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ments, (expressed in the title-page) as well as to the illiberal and narrow-minded part of the faculty. But the latter, who are possessed of such principles, must ever be considered an obstacle to every useful improvement in the art, and a disgrace to a liberal profession.

Through several years experience, attention, and perseverance, in the management of those cases, and the great success that my endeavours have been attended with, has induced me, (notwithstanding the theoretical reasonings that some may advance in opposition to my assertions) to intrude upon the world this small pamphlet; which I submit to the perusal of a generous, and candid public; who are ever ready to give their countenance, and support,

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port, to every improvement, that has a tendency to public utility.

As I consider this a subject of no small importance to attend to, it would have afforded me infinite pleasure, had it been taken into consideration by more able hands. But perceiving no Gentleman so disposed, and feeling a desire to render myself as useful to mankind as I can, will, I flatter myself, be considered a sufficient apology for these few sheets.

I believe it will generally be allowed, that no art or science, have of late years received more considerable and valuable improvements, than anatomy and surgery. Such improvements, that many persons have experienced the happy and salutary

effects of, in a variety of cases and operations. And I am inclined to think, that any information which is likely to be productive of advantage to the afflicted, (by whatever means or person it may originally have been conveyed) will ever be considered to merit attention by the liberal, and disinterested part of mankind.

O B S E R -

OBSERVATIONS, &c.

THE number of cripples (both adults and children) that are daily to be seen in the public streets, is really a melancholy circumstance to reflect upon ; and many of them encumbered with irons ; and some of those instruments so constructed, as to be calculated more to torment than relieve. I often meet accidentally such unfortunate persons, whom I cannot but view with concern, being well convinced that their afflicted limbs are often loaded with heavy, and I will dare to affirm, frequently unnecessary weights : and I doubt not but the Reader will be able to recollect that he has, at different times, observed persons of the above description, dressed out

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in those materials. I am conscious that several of those cases might be remedied; and by a mode of treatment that would render the wearing of any kind of irons totally unnecessary; a mode, much more agreeable to the Patient, and generally successful in the event. And I have pursued such means in those cases, to persons, whom, before their applications to me, submitted to the wearing of irons, but ever after had no occasion for the use of any such instruments, being placed in a much more agreeable situation than I found them.

Those cases may proceed from preternatural causes, and be perceptible at the time of birth; or may be acquired by accidental ones, as by putting a child on its feet too early, before its legs are sufficiently strong to support the weight of its body*. The ankle may be luxated † by running,

* Weak-limbed, and ricketty children are, in general, most liable to such alterations; the ligaments being so relaxed, as to make the conjunction of bones very weak: hence arise luxations from an internal cause.

† In luxations, the tendons and ligaments of the joint are in a more or less degree stretched, and sometimes torn.

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leaping, falls, blows, &c*. but whether such cases proceed from external or internal causes, the appearances are similar, and

* The ankle is not always luxated from such causes, but retains its proper place, the surrounding parts being only violently strained, and contused; producing swelling, tension and stiffness, so that the person can neither stand nor walk; and it is necessary he should rest for some time; as by keeping in bed, or laying the limb on a chair or stool. Such accidents require low diet for a time; evacuations by bleeding and cathartics in a greater or less degree, according to the violence of the symptoms, age, habit of body, and state of the person, at the time of receiving the accident; cataplasms, and repellent embrocations, during the inflammatory and tumefied state. After inflammation and tumefaction has subsided, then to restore tone to the parts, by pumping, or immersion in cold water; strengthening embrocations; a roller, properly applied; with moderate, and slow motion for some time, will often be all that is necessary. But it sometime happens otherwise; when the patient is again able to stand on his foot, he will observe that he cannot walk on it in the same position, as he used to do before the accident; that he daily continues to grow worse, and must be a cripple the remainder of his life, if proper means are not made use of to restore him to the right use of his foot. It is generally believed, and said, that time will effect it; but I am very certain, in the generality of those cases, that time alone can never produce a cure; and those who think so, may wait for an event which will never take place.

the position of the foot is in different directions, dependant on the nature of the case, and may be distinguished by the posture of the joint. The ancle may be distorted in four different directions, either forwards, backwards, inwards, or outwards*. When forwards, that bone of the foot, known to Anatomists, and Surgeons by the name of astragalus, which supports the tibia, or large and inner bone of the leg, and is supported by the os calcis, or bone of the heel, being luxated forwards, so that the heel is shorter, and the foot longer than its fellow†. When backwards, the contrary signs will appear. When on the inside, the person

* The surfaces are named according to their natural situation. The broad, or superior part of the foot, is called the instep; the bottom, or inferior part, the sole; the side, on which the great toe is, internal; that where the little toe is, external. The Reader probably may think I need hardly have explained this matter; being terms, that most persons are acquainted with.

† I do not recollect that I have ever seen any person who was thus circumstanced at their birth. I believe it is generally produced from external accidental causes.

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will be observed standing or walking on the inside of his foot; the bottom or sole being turned backwards, the heel is inclined inwards, and the toes outwards. When on the outside, the reverse may be observed; the person is observed standing, or walking, on the outside of his foot, with the toes inclined inwards; the heel outwards, and sole of the foot turned backwards*, and in some cases upwards, being what is commonly called crooked or club feet.

That by a sufficient confidence on the part of my patients, and strict perseverance on mine, I have fortunately so far succeeded (and, in some cases, in a shorter space of time than could be imagined) to bring their feet so nearly in a strait and natural position, as to enable them to stand and walk, in future, on the soles of their feet, who, before their applications to me, were circumstanced as before-men-

* The two last cases have been noticed by some of the ancients, and distinguished by two different appellations, according to the position of the foot. Those that were distorted outwards they termed *valgi*, and those inwards *vari*.

tioned; and many of them born in this situation, and were put under my care several years afterwards*.

* The late ingenious Mr. Cheselden has mentioned those cases in the seventh edition of his Anatomy, p. 37, where he expresses him as follows: "Children are sometimes born with their feet turned inwards, so that the bottom of the foot is upwards: in this case the bones of the tarsus, like the vertebre of the back in crooked persons, are fashioned to the deformity. The first knowledge I had of a cure of this disease, was from Mr. Presgrove, a professed bone-setter, then living in Westminster. I recommended the patient to him, not knowing how to cure him myself. His way was by holding the foot as near the natural posture as he could, and then rolling it up with straps of sticking-plaster, which he repeated from time to time, as he saw occasion, until the limb was restored to a natural position, but not without some imperfection; the bandage wasting the leg, and making the top of the foot swell, and grow larger. After this having another case of this kind under my care, I thought of a much better bandage, which I had learnt from Mr. Cowper, a bone-setter, at Leicester, who set and cured a fracture of my own cubit, or forearm, when I was a boy at school. His way was, after putting the limb in a proper posture, to wrap it up in rags dipped in the whites of eggs, and a little wheat-flower mixed; this drying, grew stiff, and kept the limb in a good posture. And I think there is no way better than this in fractures, for it preserves the position of the limb, without strict bandage, which is the

That those assertions are facts, which I will challenge the tongues of the most malicious, and envious to contradict, there being at this time living testimonials, who have experienced the good effects of this plan; and I flatter myself they would

the common cause of mischief in fractures. When I used this method to the crooked foot, I wrapt up the limb almost from the knee to the toes, and caused the limb to be held in the best posture, till the bandage grew stiff, and repeated the bandage once a fortnight."

I do not presume to doubt the veracity of what Mr. Cheselden relates, respecting the efficacy of the two different methods of these town and country bone-setters. But I can truly venture to affirm, that if I had depended on either of them, in the cases of this nature which I have cured, instead of pursuing the means which I did, I have every reason to be convinced that my endeavours would have proved ineffectual. My Patients would have been weary of a tedious process, by which they had received no benefit; they would have dismissed me and remained uncured and dissatisfied. The latter method Mr. Cheselden said he made use of himself in a crooked foot; but I observe he does not mention whether he cured his Patient or not. And in respect to such an application in fractures, I believe most persons who are acquainted with the present easy and successful mode of treating them, will not long hesitate which to give the preference to.

cheerfully, and willingly acknowledge the justness and veracity of what I here affirm.

I have frequently reflected how little those kind of cases have been attended to by practitioners in general; who, after recommending various tonic, and stimulating means, such as electricity, the cold bath, pumping, embrocations, frictions, sea-bathing, different pieces of machinery, &c. and after finding them ineffectual (which, according to the nature of such cases they, by themselves, inevitably must) they are afterwards referred to an instrument-maker for an iron. Sometimes two are applied, one on each side; at other times one is preferred: and when one only has been made choice of, I have often smiled to observe, that it has been placed on the wrong side of the foot; therefore more likely to add to the patient's infirmity, than relieve, or procure him that support, which, I presume, must be the intention of applying them. I do not mean to say, that those tonic, and stimulating remedies which have been recommended, and made
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use of in such cases, are entirely unnecessary and useless. On the contrary, I consider them very necessary and applicable in several such cases, in conjunction with other more essential means: but that they by themselves can be effectual, or equal to the task, from manifold experience I have sufficient authority to contradict.

As several medical friends, to whom I have, in course of conversation, mentioned the inattention usually paid to cases of this kind, have acknowledged to me, that they believed many of them would admit of relief, provided the length of time such a process requires did not deter the Surgeon from engaging in so arduous, and precarious a task, as they conceived it to be; and and the degree of force or violence, as they supposed necessary, in the accomplishment of it, would prevent persons from submitting to so hazardous, and painful an undertaking.

Every practitioner must be sensible that there are many other cases which often require a considerable length of time before the wished for end can be accomplished,

ed, as in chronic diseases, the treatment of the curvature of the spine by caustics, that most excellent, and useful discovery, invented, and brought into general practice, by that very ingenious Gentleman, and valuable member of society (Mr. Pott); and many others might be named, requiring the patience of both the practitioner and the Patient. Now, that the cases I allude to should appear more tedious, under similar circumstances (respecting length of time) is a matter, I must confess I do not clearly comprehend.

That the degree of force made use of, and violent pain excited (as those Gentlemen conceived necessary) is an absolute mistake. I am apprized that great force suddenly applied, and violent pain produced, may, in many instances, be productive of mischievous consequences. Such violence, as to put a patient in the least hazard, is not at all necessary, nor proper, for the accomplishment of such purposes; and it is a practice that I do not, nor ever do intend to pursue; nor do I think it will ever be followed by any person that has any regard
for

for the welfare of mankind and his own reputation.

I am well convinced, that there are several pretenders to the art, or dabblers in surgery, who, being totally unacquainted with the anatomical structure, and disposition of the parts they are about to operate upon, that are more calculated to pull a joint asunder, than place it in its natural position. That a proper degree of exertion, both of the Patient, and the Surgeon, or that the hands of a Surgeon is necessary, I do not pretend to deny. But the degree of force, which is considered as necessary in effecting such purposes, I again declare is absolutely unnecessary, and palpably improper.

I must request not to be misunderstood, as if I meant to insinuate that I am possessed of a method of treatment, whereby I can effect a cure in some instances, and afford relief in others, in every case of this kind, however the person may be situated in other respects. I should be sorry that my meaning should be so misconstrued. I am perfectly satisfied that there are persons with those kind of cases, who are
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either so circumstanced, or so complicated with other infirmities, that must render an attempt of this kind a rashness, and absurdity. And such an attempt as, I think, will never be put in practice by an honest man, or one who wishes to be considered a man of veracity and candour. But that several such cases, differently circumstanced, may be considerably remedied, and others, particularly in children, perfectly cured, (after their irons are laid aside) are facts, which successful experience authorizes me to declare.

Those infirmities which appear to me as strong objections to the attempt of any means of relief, in such cases, are, a bad state of health, extreme weakness of constitution, old age, rheumatic affections, gout, ulcers, paralytic affections, &c. in the afflicted limb. That one, or more of those complaints may attend a person that has a distorted foot, few, I believe, will attempt to deny. In short, a variety of circumstances may attend different persons, so as to render the pursuing of any means,

for the cure, or relief of their lameness, a folly and impropriety.

The Reader will please to recollect, I have not presumed to say, that in the variety of cases in which irons have been recommended, or made use of, that no persons have experienced any benefit, or advantage from them. It is not my intention to advance any such thing. All that I mean to say is, that in the majority of cases of this nature, which have come under my management, I have found them not only useless, but detrimental.

It probably by some may be conjectured, that I am either blinded by prejudice against the use of irons, or from a worse motive, may attempt to cry them down, merely from a selfish principle, to serve my own ends. Those that know me, I flatter myself will think otherwise. What I have advanced against irons is the result of long observation, and attention to those cases in which they are applied; and being well convinced they are not calculated to produce a cure in those cases that are curable, and that they are often pernicious.

It

It may be imagined, that the mode of treatment I pursue may confine my patients, or prevent them from walking out for a time; but quite the contrary is the case. They are at full liberty to take their accustomed exercises, and with this advantage, without dragging along with them a heavy iron.

I suspect that some of those advocates for irons, and particularly those iron-merchants that sell them, may feel themselves offended at my declaration: but that consideration will have little weight with me, while I feel myself disposed to be serviceable to mankind; and when I consider that every Surgeon is at liberty to think for himself, and to recommend, and put in practice such means, which, from experience, he is satisfied is most conducive to the recovery, and convenience of his Patients; and to discommend, and reject those that he knows to be injurious, and unnecessary.

As facts are stubborn things, and not easily to be over-ruled; and the Reader, I hope, will entertain a more favourable
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opinion of me, than to suppose me capable of attempting to impose upon mankind by false insinuations. But while I have truth on my side, I shall ever look upon the opposition that I may experience from the self-interested and illiberal, as a circumstance not worthy of my attention.

Before I proceed further, I shall trouble the Reader with an account of the circumstance that induced me to turn my thoughts particularly to those kind of cases.

At an early period of life, I accidentally became acquainted with a Mr. B——, who resides about forty miles from London. I soon after received an invitation to go down and continue at his house for a time, which invitation I accepted of. Being informed that he had continued for several years, with great success, to relieve, in many instances, such cripples that had deformed or crooked feet; and in effecting which, he told me, he never made use of any irons; when he shewed me a variety of them, differently constructed, which hung up in a washhouse, and which he told me several of his Patients wore at the time they
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were first brought to him, and that he immediately threw them aside, thinking them of no use, but hurtful. After this time, I had repeatedly an opportunity of seeing his Patients, when he described to me their situations before they were put under his care; and by his descriptions, and their appearances, at the time I saw them, it was evident they were visibly better.

I was clear, by Mr. B——'s conversation, that he had never received the advantage of a Medical education, but, on the contrary, was bred up to a trade in a country town: I was, therefore, curious to know by what means he became acquainted with this method, which he pursued with so much success.

He informed me, he received those instructions from his father, who was a practitioner of physick and surgery in the country: that being conscious he had not provided for him in a manner equal to his other children, he communicated this art to him by way of recompence for his former neglect; and, at the same time, told him,

him, that though he was not brought up to the profession, he might practice it, and render himself useful, and in the end it might prove a valuable acquisition to him. That, from that time, he continued to pursue it, whenever he could lay hold of a case (as he termed it) : that he had met with great success; and found his practice in this branch encrease so rapidly, by the recommendations of his Patients, and their relations and friends, so that he was under the necessity of leaving off his trade, and attending to this branch solely.

I soon after became nearly allied to one of his family, which induced him to let me into the secret (as he expressed it) but on certain conditions, which were, that I should not reveal to any one his mode of treatment, during his life, which conditions I acceded to. From this time I had the fairest opportunities of inspecting into his plan, and rendering him my assistance: and from the length of time I continued with him, I had repeated opportunities of observing with admiration, the success that attended our endeavours.

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That this man must labour under great disadvantages for want of anatomical and surgical knowledge, I think I need hardly tell the Reader. But notwithstanding such difficulties, he has continued this practice so successfully, as to give satisfaction to his patients, and their relations and friends.

Anatomy must ever be considered the basis of medical and surgical knowledge *, and without such necessary information, a practitioner, whichever branch of the profession he may pursue, is working in the dark, liable to commit gross errors, and more frequently prejudicial, than beneficial to mankind.

* Such information can only be properly acquired by attending dissections, and the demonstrations of an Anatomical Professor. This town is fortunately provided with as many ingenious Gentlemen of this description, as, I believe, any other country can boast of: and also Professors equally eminent in the different branches of Medicine; who are, at this time, among the brightest ornaments of their profession. To some of those Gentlemen, I feel myself considerably indebted, and shall ever think of their merits and extraordinary abilities, with the utmost respect and diffidence.

That

That the same kind of knowledge is as necessary for the proper management of the cases I allude to, will, I think, by few be doubted. To be acquainted with the situation, number, size, figure, and texture of the various bones of the foot; their manner of articulation with each other, and with the bones of the leg*; a knowledge of the powers

* The foot, by Anatomists, is divided into three portions: Tarsus, or the first portion, which is the largest part of the foot, consists of seven bones, differently named, according to their figures, or situations; tied to each other by ligaments. The inferior extremity of the tibia and fibula, or large and small bone of the leg, projects out into two protuberances, forming the inner and outer ancle; they concur in the articulation of the tarsus, or first portion, serving to strengthen the ancle joint, and to render luxations less easy, and is connected to the bones of the leg by strong ligaments. There are also ligaments to connect the three parts, of which the foot is composed.

The metatarsus, or middle portion, is composed of five bones, corresponding with the bones of the toes.

The toes, or the third portion, called phalanges, have each three bones, except the great toe, which has only two: therefore the foot is made up of six and twenty bones.

It would, I think, be unnecessary here, to enter into a minute description of the anatomical structure and

powers by which they are put in motion ; that is, to be acquainted with the origin, infertion, and uses of the several muscles of this extremity, together with the texture, situation, and uses of the cartilages *, and ligaments †. In short, a clear idea of the
form

disposition of the several parts of which the foot is composed. My intention is, only to convey to those of my readers, who before may not have received such information, some idea of the structure and uses of the different parts composing the ancle joint.

* Cartilages are smooth, elastic, white substances, between the hardness of a bone and ligament: they cover the ends of bones that are designed for motion, that they may slide easily, without painful attrition, which two bones, rubbing against each other, without this medium, would produce.

† Ligaments are flexible bodies, of a white colour, thicker and firmer than membranes; but not so firm nor hard as cartilages: some serving to connect one bone to another, and to retain them in their situations, called lateral ligaments. There are others, called capsular ligaments, which surrounds the whole joints, as in a bag, and contains a liquor to moisten their surfaces, and render motion easy, termed synovia, which is secreted by small exhalant arteries on their inner surfaces. And that this liquor should not be more than necessary for the moisture of the joint, there are correspondent absorbent vessels, to take up what is more than is required
for

form of the articulation of this joint, with their muscles and ligaments, and the different motions the foot is capable of performing †, is really necessary for him, who would wish to practise with satisfaction to himself, and also ease and safety to his patient.

Mr. B. was well apprized of the difficulties he had experienced in many instances, for want of such important information, which, I believe, induced him to offer me proposals, that I might remain with him; when (to use his own words) he said, I might be of service to him, and he could be of service to me. But considering his proposals far from being advantageous on my side, and soon after meet-

for this purpose. If this liquor is separated in too small a quantity the joint becomes rigid. If it is deposited in too great a quantity, and the absorbent vessels do not perform their office sufficiently, they may occasion a dropsy in the joint.

† The foot can be moved in four different directions; by flexion, or drawing it downwards; extension, or raising it upwards; adduction, or being turned inwards; abduction, or turned outwards. It has also a degree of rotatory motion.

ing with some circumstances respecting his conduct to me, which created my disgust, and induced me to relinquish every thought of continuing with him; I, therefore, in a short time afterwards, returned to London, resolving to pursue this mode of treatment in every case of the kind, which I could procure, and where I saw a prospect of success; and considering the benefits that several of those afflicted persons might receive from it, to endeavour to make such necessary improvements, as it occurred to me was requisite.

As the greater number of his Patients had consulted one, or more Gentlemen of the Faculty, before their applications to him, I have often heard him boast of having performed cures, which were deemed by several Surgeons irremediable; throwing out very illiberal and ungenteel reflections upon several respectable Gentlemen (whom I knew to be truly eminent in their professions) and upon the body of Surgeons in general. I could not avoid feeling myself hurt at such indignity shewn to such learned and respectable characters, and useful members

members of society as those Gentlemen, whose names he made so free with ; being certain, that were they to turn their thoughts to such cases, or had sufficient leisure to attend to them, they might effect more than it was in the power of Mr. B.

Being bold by success, I have seen him rashly undertake to cure cases quite foreign to those in which he has proved so successful, and which were so circumstanced, as not to be in the power of human art to relieve ; in which he could neither procure benefit to the afflicted, nor credit to himself ; but must inevitably be baffled in the attempt, to the no small mortification and disappointment of his Patients, whose hopes had been exalted with the pleasing prospect of being cured. I have observed him engage in unreducible luxations of the hip, scrophulous swellings of the knee joint, where the heads of the bones were much swollen, and apparently very much diseased ; and where I could see no other chance for the Patient, but amputation of the limb, and apparently no time to be lost.

Let not the Reader mistake my meaning, and suppose that I am disposed to vilify his conduct, and that I think he is not deserving of merit for the services he has rendered to mankind, because he is not a regular practitioner. It is far from my intention to advance any such thing. On the contrary, I am ready to allow him every merit that is due to him for such services; but I do not consider him entitled to any merit for abusing truly useful and respectable characters: nor will I allow him any merit for undertaking cases, the true nature, cause, parts diseased, and proper mode of treatment he is an entire stranger to. And was he my own brother, or a person to whom I had reason to consider myself under any obligations, I should conceive it a duty incumbent on me to reprobate such erroneous conduct.

On my return to London, I resolved to settle near this metropolis, and engage in every fair case I could meet with; and the number of such cases that have come within my observation since that period, and the repeated success which has attended my
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endeavours, has encouraged me to pay them the most indefatigable attention. And I hope it will not be considered a piece of ostentation, or vanity in me, to say, that I have made considerable improvements in this branch.

It probably may be observed by some, into whose hands this publication may fall, that I have not clearly explained the mode of treatment necessary to be pursued in those cases, and may accuse me of being of a covetous disposition, desirous of concealing this improvement as a secret nostrum, with a wish to engross the whole of such practice to myself; and if public utility was my principal aim, I should have acted in a more generous way, and pointed out the means requisite in such cases, that other practitioners might be enabled to be equally useful.

Those that are of this opinion, I beg leave to refer them to a former page, wherein I mentioned a certain promise made by me at an early age: and as I ever consider a promise as binding, (whatever length of time may have elapsed since it was

was first made) I am therefore inclined to think, that the more ingenuous part of my Readers will do me the justice to allow, that I have expressed myself as fully on this subject as my present situation will permit me.

In all those cases that I have had an opportunity of observing, I have remarked more or less, of a waste, or loss of substance in the whole extremity ; the muscles of that limb having lost, in a great measure, their tone and firmness, and becoming weak and flaccid, feeling flabby and relaxed.

Those that are so circumstanced at their birth, or acquire them by accidents, before they are arrived at full growth, the limb and foot is generally shorter than its fellow, feeling cold to the touch ; the circulation being more languid in such limbs, consequently they do not receive the same degree of nourishment as other parts of the body, and do not grow in proportion.

It may by some few be asked, can such blemishes ever be remedied ; or can such a limb ever be made to appear as full and plump as its fellow ? As it is not my wish

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to be considered a conjurer, and if I continue in the same mind I am at present, I think I shall never attempt to set up that art; therefore I must confess that such an attempt must be impracticable, and must ever be considered a great folly and absurdity in a Surgeon to attempt, and also unreasonable in any person to expect. But, that a person, being before so situated, as to stand and walk on one side of his foot, and, in some cases, on his instep, (and some who never before walked in any other manner) should be enabled, in the space of time (sooner or later) to tread, and walk on the sole of his foot, and continue to do so the remainder of his life! or, that a person, who has been accustomed to wear an iron, should be put in a situation, so as to walk much better without its aid; and the foot in a more natural position, must not be considered a very agreeable change; and is not a consideration of some importance to such a person to attend to, I think it is hardly necessary to put the question.

There are various other accidents to which mankind are liable, producing (in a

greater or less degree) a withering or decay of the limb, so that the calf of the leg, and often the whole extremity, appears smaller than its fellow; as in fractures, unreducible luxations, lacerated wounds of the muscles, tendons, &c. and which blemishes must also continue the remainder of the person's life.

I am sensible that there are cases of luxations, which from neglect of reduction, or from other causes, are so circumstanced, as never after to admit of being reduced; as in the hip-joint; the thigh-bone adhering firmly to the adjacent parts, without the socket: and in those not arrived at full growth, the head of the bone enlarging, and the sinus, from which it receded contracting, must ever after render reduction impracticable. The same circumstances may attend a luxation of the shoulder, when the head of the bone adheres firmly to some of the adjacent parts under the arm, and can seldom be restored by any means whatever. But those who suppose the same impracticableness is always attendant in cases of the ankle-joint (similar
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circumstanced, respecting the date of the accident) I must take the liberty to inform them they are mistaken.

Before I quit the subject I will just mention a few cases, as a confirmation of what I have advanced.

C A S E I.

JOSEPH MARSH, about eight years of age, belonging to the Parish School at Islington, by a fall down a steep place, luxated his foot forwards. I occasionally observed him in the streets, and became desirous of examining his case. I desired him to tell his parents to come with him to my house. His mother accordingly came with him the following morning; when I desired her to give me an account of the particulars. She told me that he had met with this accident about a year and a half before, that he was directly sent to an Hospital, where he remained some time, but to no purpose; that she had procured him all the advice she could, and he was deemed a cripple for life. This

boy was under the necessity of making use of a crutch ; his foot was considerably distorted ; he was unable to reach the ground with his toes ; which were inclined downwards, and his heel upwards. I could not avoid thinking but that there was a chance of helping this boy. I therefore advised his mother to commit him to my care, and I would endeavour to be of service to him : and as they were in needy circumstances, it should be attended with no expence to them. She thankfully accepted of my proposals, and I ordered the boy to call on me every morning. As I suspected, so the event proved ; for in a shorter space of time than I could have imagined, I had so far succeeded as to enable him to lay aside his crutch, and make use of a stick, as he was at that time capable of reaching the ground with his toes, and walking on them. By degrees, and perseverance, he was able to stand and walk again on his foot, and at length found his stick no longer necessary, as he required no such assistance. In short, by continuing to attend to him, he got perfectly well. I have
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since frequently had the satisfaction of seeing him playing, running, and leaping with other boys. It is about six years since he was under my care. He is at the time of my writing this, living, perfectly well, and an apprentice to a whitesmith in London.

C A S E II.

A young Gentlewoman, about six and twenty years of age, living in the neighbourhood of White-Conduit House, sprained her ancle on the inside. The usual method of treatment in recent sprains was administered. When she was able to put it again to the ground, she observed, that the inside of her foot was much inclined downwards, which daily encreased, so that she absolutely walked on the inside. She grew uneasy, and was at last advised to consult me. I told her I saw no reason to doubt but I could cure her. She told me she was willing to submit to whatever I thought necessary. In the course of a few weeks she

she was able to stand and walk as well as before the accident happened.

C A S E III.

A young Lady of Newington Butts, about five years of age, was put under my care. She was born with both her feet distorted inwards, standing and walking on the inside. In the course of a few months she was so much mended, that, as I was going to pay her a visit, I had the pleasure to observe her sliding on a piece of ice, in a Court Yard before the house. She continued mending; and soon after recovered the proper use of her feet so well, as to be put under the hands of a Dancing-master, to receive the advantage of that accomplishment.

C A S E IV.

I was consulted respecting a little Miss, about four years old, in the neighbourhood of Cold-Bath Fields, who had one foot distorted inwards, and the other outwards,

wards. She was not born in this situation; but it was perceived by her parents soon after she was able to go alone. Similar success attended this case, and she recovered the proper use of her feet.

C A S E V.

I was desired to see a young Gentleman at Westminster, about seven years of age, who, three years before, had the misfortune to have his left foot wedged in between a door, through the carelessness of a servant, by shutting the door with great force as the child was passing through it. I found his foot terribly distorted, and hanging down on the outside, which he trod on; the whole extremity considerably wasted, and shorter than its fellow. I was informed that several Gentlemen had seen him, and various means had been tried for his relief, but in vain, and he was considered incurable. That one Gentleman to whom he was carried, expressed himself offended at bringing such a cripple to him; that he wondered how any person could be so absurd as to suppose that he

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was capable of affording a child any relief in such a situation ; that he was ruined, and must continue in the state he was in all his life.

When I first saw this case I could not avoid being of a different opinion from this Gentleman, who was so hasty in his prognostic. I therefore told his parents that I thought there was a prospect of affording him considerable relief, so as to enable him to walk again on the bottom of his foot. They reposed a confidence in my opinion, and he was put under my care. By perseverance, and strict attention to this case, I was so fortunate (and in a much shorter time than I expected) to bring this young Gentleman's foot into its natural position, by which he was again enabled to walk on the bottom of it.

This young Gentleman had worn an iron, as also had the young Lady, mentioned in Case III.

C A S E VI.

I was consulted respecting the case of a young Lady of Brentford, near thirteen
years

years of age, who was born with a deformed foot, which was distorted outwards; bearing the weight of her body in standing and walking on the outside. Repetition of success induced me to think that I should in this instance prove successful, and encouraged me to undertake the task. The event answered my utmost expectation. I have the pleasing satisfaction to see her stand, and walk on the sole of her foot, which she never before was capable of doing. She is at this time under my care at a boarding-school at Islington.

This young Lady also wore an iron.

That those persons must have continued cripples for life, if I had not taken them in hand; or, if such means had not been made use of, I apprehend few will doubt.

Many similar instances of success I could relate, but that would carry me beyond my present purpose. Those I have mentioned, I hope, will be thought sufficient to convince the reader, that some of those cases will admit of being cured, and others considerably remedied.

The length of time such a process requires, cannot exactly be ascertained; as that must vary, according to particular circumstances, attending each individual case, (respecting age, date of the complaint, degree of distortion, &c.)

I am satisfied that such cures are more easily accomplished in children, and those who are not arrived at full growth, than afterwards. But that many who are advanced beyond that period are so circumstanced as not to admit of being remedied, I can safely venture to deny.

Those who are far advanced in life, that from date of the complaint, rigidity of the joint, and other circumstances; that have been accustomed to the use of an iron for a considerable time. To persons, thus situated, it would be a folly, and absurdity, to attempt to procure them any relief. And it would probably be a difficult matter to prevail on many such people, to discontinue the use of irons, that have been accustomed to wear them for many years. Old people are generally partial to old customs, and not easily prevailed to follow others. Nor would I attempt to persuade
them

them to it, unless I saw a prospect of placing them in a more comfortable situation.

The reader may observe in the introduction to this pamphlet, that I have there mentioned a certain description of men, (and I believe there are too many such to be found in every profession and calling) from whom I have little reason to expect the most candid sentiments on this occasion, such sentiments being quite contrary to their nature. It would, I allow, have been unnecessary here, to have mentioned my suspicions respecting those characters, provided I had not experienced such kind of treatment from some of them. Such persons indiscriminately vilify, and oppose any invention, without inquiring into the merits of it, or without considering if it is likely to be useful, and is deserving of support, or not, if it has not a tendency to be profitable to themselves, or because it was not an invention of their own. Nor will they consider another entitled to any merit, for any services they have afforded mankind, and endeavour to persuade others that are of a different opinion, into their own thoughts and sentiments.

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I have met with such conduct from some, whose situation in life, I should have imagined, would have placed them above such dissingenuousness ; whom not satisfied with dissuading those whom they were not able to cure themselves, from applying to me, and after such persons, contrary to their advice, had applied, and some several months or a year, or more, after such advice was given ; and when they had received a cure, or been considerably benefited, they have then attempted to persuade them that such cure, or relief, was not performed by me, but was merely the effect of time.

There are few candid persons, I am apt to think, that knew the situations of such persons before they were put under my care, and have had an opportunity of seeing them since, that are of this opinion. I am very certain my patients and their relations are not ; whose intellects are fortunately so sound, and not so easily to be imposed upon, so as to be able to discern such craft and malevolence : They are too well convinced of the very great attention and perseverance that is necessary in order to

to afford them those benefits they have experienced, and are too generous and honest to attribute them to time. I will therefore put a plain question those *liberal* minded Gentlemen. How does it happen that such persons, whom for several months, or years, after every attempt to afford them relief has been given up, and considered ineffectual; that soon after they are put under my care, time should then begin to operate in their favour, independant of my endeavours, which before never afforded them a jot of relief, but they remained in the same situation from the time those Gentlemen left them, to the time of their application to me? If they can reasonably and satisfactorily explain this matter, I shall then think their assertions merit consideration, if otherwise, contempt.

I have now expressed myself as fully on this matter, as I am (at present) at liberty to do; perhaps, at a future time, I may be disposed to enter more freely upon it. I shall therefore conclude, by just summing up the whole, in a brief manner, that I mean to advance, namely,

That the majority of those cases have been very little attended to by practitioners in general.

That many of them will admit of being cured, and others considerably remedied.

That such a change can never be produced by wearing of irons.

That the use of irons in several such cases, is totally unnecessary, and frequently pernicious.

That in effecting such purposes, violent pain is not excited, nor the patient put in the least hazard.

That I have pursued this mode of practice, and daily continue so to do; and several such afflicted persons have experienced the salutary effects of it.

That those assertions are indisputable facts, which will not admit of contradiction.

F I N I S.

